



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
03.01.2007 Bulletin 2007/01

(51) Int Cl.:
G11B 7/08 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **06300543.3**

(22) Date of filing: **01.06.2006**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK YU

(72) Inventors:
• **Burkart, Harald**
78054, Villingen-Schwenningen (DE)
• **Dupper, Rolf**
78050, Villingen-Schwenningen (DE)
• **Tabor, Günter**
78056, Villingen-Schwenningen (DE)

(30) Priority: **27.06.2005 EP 05105700**

(71) Applicant: **Thomson Licensing S.A.**
92100 Boulogne-Billancourt (FR)

(74) Representative: **Thies, Stephan**
Deutsche Thomson-Brandt GmbH,
Licensing and Intellectual Property,
Karl-Wiechert-Allee 74
30625 Hannover (DE)

(54) **Scanning device for optical discs**

(57) The invention relates to a scanning device for optical discs, having an optical housing (1) with integrally formed sliding areas for receiving a scanning unit with a carrier (8) with a scanning head (5) arranged thereon, which scanning unit is provided with counter-sliding areas and is adjustable about a virtual axis, the scanning unit, with at least one adjusting apparatus (9) which is supported on the housing (1) and acts on the carrier (8) and with at least one spring means which acts on the carrier (8) on that side of the sliding areas which is remote from the adjusting apparatus (9), being tensioned against the sliding areas and being adjustable by the adjusting

apparatus (9). It achieves the object of configuring such a scanning device for optical discs such that the structural space for the spring means acting on the carrier is minimized and a separate fixing element for said spring means is unnecessary. For this purpose, the spring means is formed as a clip spring (10), having an elongated spring limb (101) and a bearing limb (102) formed transversely with respect to the latter, which clip spring impinges at one of its ends with the bearing limb (102) on the carrier (8) with a contact force and is supported at its other end at a distance from the impingement location on the housing (1).

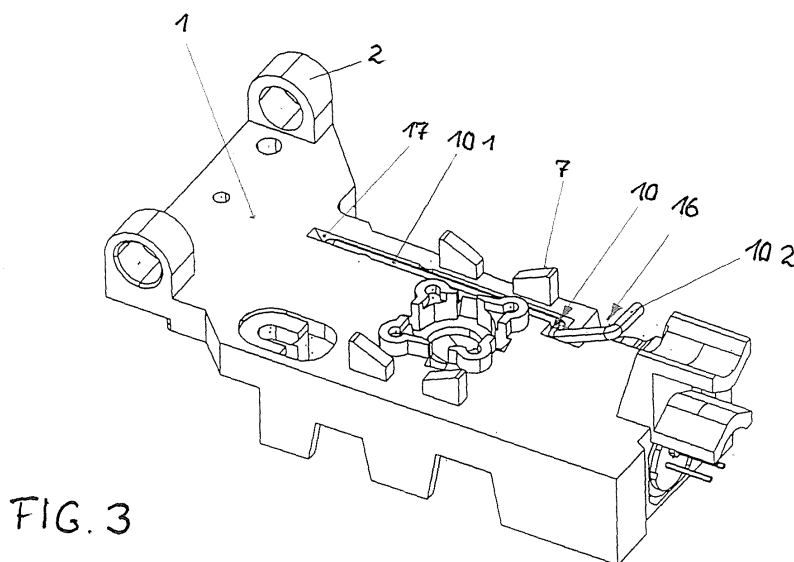


FIG. 3

Description

[0001] The invention relates to a scanning device for optical discs, in particular for arrangement in an appliance for reading from and/or writing to optical discs, also referred to hereinafter as discs or storage media, the scanning device reading or storing information or data in at least one track of the respective optical disc. Optical discs are understood to be, in particular, compact discs known as CDs, digital versatile discs known as DVDs, CD-ROMs or DVD-ROMs or rewritable CDs or DVDs.

[0002] A scanning device has an optical housing and an optical scanning unit known as an actuator. The optical housing can be moved like a slide obliquely or perpendicularly to the respective recording track of a disc-type optical recording medium (optical disc) and is known as a pick-up. It can be moved in a manner driven by electric motor with high speed and high positioning accuracy, in association with a short access time to different locations on the recording medium. The actuator emits a laser beam onto the recording medium and receives the beam reflected from there. The scanning unit having a focusing lens is mounted in an adjustable manner with a disc-type carrier on the housing, which is moveable on guide rods, in order to be able to orient the focusing lens with regard to the optical path of the optical housing. This last is necessary because the scanning device has a series of optical components for directing and orienting the laser beam on the path to the respective recording medium and from the latter to a detector, which, just like the mechanical parts that hold and connect these, have specific manufacturing and assembly tolerances.

[0003] In order that the respective optical disc can be illuminated in a positionally accurate manner and its data can be communicated precisely to the detector, provision is made for aligning the focusing lens during assembly of the scanning device by changing the inclination of the scanning unit, as is described for example in EP 0649130 A, EP 0872832 A and US 2001/0050899 A. In this case, the inclination is changed by means of the carrier about a virtual axis, said carrier resting with at least one sliding area on at least one carrying area integrally formed on the optical housing. The areas are formed in particular in spherical or cylindrical fashion, and the carrier is tensioned onto the carrying area with an adjusting screw arranged eccentrically on the housing and with a spring means arranged eccentrically and can be adjusted by turning the adjusting screw.

[0004] Tension springs and leaf springs are used as the spring means. The scanning device according to US 2001/0050899 A is provided with a leaf spring which is bent in a U-shaped manner, is fixed with one of its two limbs with a fixing section on the housing and bears elastically on the carrier with its other limb, the two limbs being inclined relative to the fixing section and the limb that bears on the carrier exerting an elastic contact force on the carrier, which force is inclined in its direction in relation to the axis of the adjusting screw. As a result, the contact

force exerted on the carrier has a component perpendicular to the carrier and a component parallel to the latter, so that it is possible to set the angle of inclination of the carrier uniformly and with high sensitivity. The fixing section of the leaf spring is preferably established by a fixing screw on the housing. On account of the very small dimensions of the scanning unit, the positioning and fixing of the spring means is made more difficult, especially as the scanning unit is not fully accessible from all sides. Consequently, it may be regarded as disadvantageous that the leaf spring described requires a separate fixing element and increased assembly costs are incurred. Moreover, the leaf spring requires a structural space determined by its extent over and alongside the carrier. It is an object of the invention to improve a scanning device of this type.

[0005] According to the invention, the spring means which tensions the carrier with the scanning head as scanning unit onto the optical housing of a scanning device in interaction with an adjusting screw is a clip spring with an elongated spring limb and a bearing limb formed transversely with respect to the latter, which clip spring impinges at one of its ends with the bearing limb on the carrier with a contact force and is supported at its other end at a distance from the impingement location on the housing, this support being free of separate fixing means. The adjusting screw is representative here of other adjusting apparatuses such as wedge arrangements or the like, which may also be provided with a latching apparatus, if required. A clip spring as described does not require a relatively large structural and assembly space. It can be produced in a simple manner, can be assembled easily and causes only low costs.

[0006] Preferably, the clip spring acts in a pretensioned manner with its bearing limb on the side remote from the housing on the carrier, in particular on an attachment formed on the latter, and impinges on the carrier in the direction towards the housing with a contact force, so that the carrier is tensioned against the sliding areas. Said bearing limb is formed for example on a hook-shaped angular portion formed on the spring limb.

[0007] The clip spring is arranged in such a way that its supporting location on the housing is given on the side of the adjusting screw acting on the carrier and thus on that side of the sliding areas which is remote from the angular portion. This results in a considerable distance between the supporting location of the clip spring on the housing and the location where it acts on the carrier, thereby enabling a gentle setting movement of the carrier by the adjusting screw in a manner free of jerking.

[0008] In order to minimize its structural space, the clip spring is advantageously guided with its spring limb in a groovelike depression formed on the housing, the hook-shaped angular portion being angled relative to the spring limb and projecting from the depression at an acute angle with respect to the housing.

[0009] The spring limb is preferably bent over in barbed fashion for its support on the housing towards the side

remote from the angled hook-shaped angular portion and clamped with the bent-over end piece in an abutment formed on the housing. In this case, the abutment is formed by boundary areas of an anchoring channel which is inclined relative to the groove-like depression or the housing surface and whose inclination is less than that of the end piece. Said channel, the cross section of which is considerably larger than that of the end piece, has a supporting area for a region of the arcuately curved part of the bent-over end of the spring limb and a bearing edge for the inner side of the bent-over end piece, the latter advantageously being formed on a shoulder. When establishing the end piece in this anchoring channel, the spring limb is pressed into the depression and tensioned against the latter and thereby clamped with the end piece in the anchoring channel. The spring limb thereby lies in a pretensioned manner in the depression and can be raised elastically at a distance from the abutment against its spring force and be brought into engagement with the carrier.

[0010] The carrier extends parallel to a virtual axis on sliding blocks which are formed on the housing and on the free end sides of which the sliding areas are situated. In this case, the sliding blocks simultaneously serve as guide means for the carrier during an adjusting movement about the virtual axis and for this purpose have lateral guide areas for the carrier on their side facing the carrier.

[0011] The sliding areas are preferably arranged and/or formed concavely relative to the carrier on the housing, so that the carrier is received in trough-like fashion with its counter-sliding areas. In this case, the sliding areas may be configured in spherical or cylindrical fashion. Said sliding areas and the counter-sliding areas bearing in a positively locking manner are advantageously formed in cylindrical fashion, however, in order to permit an adjusting movement of the carrier in only one defined direction. In the case of the sliding areas at the housing, as an alternative to the cylindrical embodiment, a plane prismatic embodiment is also possible, on the inclined flanks of which the cylindrical counter-sliding areas bear linearly parallel to the virtual axis.

[0012] The invention is explained below on the basis of an exemplary embodiment. In the associated drawings:

Figure 1 shows a scanning device according to the invention in a perspective illustration,

Figure 2 shows the optical housing of the scanning device from Figure 1 with the carrier for the scanning head in a perspective illustration,

Figure 3 shows the optical housing of the scanning device with a clip spring arranged on said housing,

Figure 4 shows a plan view of the optical housing, rotated through 180° relative to Figure 3,

Figure 5 shows a section V - V through the housing with a clip spring having been arranged, and

Figure 6 shows the anchoring of the clip spring in the housing, in an enlarged fashion relative to Figure 5.

[0013] Figure 1 shows an optical scanning device having an optical housing 1 made of diecast zinc or plastic with guide blocks 2 for a linear movement, into which are introduced holes 3 for arrangement on a guide rod 4, and with a scanning head 5 with a focusing lens 6. The scanning head 5 is fixedly connected to a carrier 8, which is partially concealed by said scanning head and is fixed in an adjustable manner on the housing 1 on sliding blocks 7, and said scanning head is tensioned together with the carrier 8 against the sliding blocks 7 by means of an adjusting screw 9 (Figure 2) supported on the housing 1 and by means of a clip spring 10 made of spring steel wire. The adjusting screw 9 and the clip spring 10 in each case act on the carrier 8 at a distance from the sliding blocks 7 and are in this case arranged in diagonally opposite fashion.

[0014] Figure 2 clearly reveals the mounting of the carrier 8 on the housing 1. The sliding blocks 7 integrally formed on the housing 1 are provided on their top sides with concavely curved cylindrical sliding areas 11 for receiving the carrier 8, which for this purpose has counter-sliding areas 12 which correspond to the sliding areas 11 and are formed in convexly curved and cylindrical fashion and bear on the sliding areas 11 in a positively locking manner. The adjusting screw 9 is in engagement with a lug 13 integrally formed on the carrier 8, said lug having a threaded hole 14 for this purpose. On that side of the carrier 8 which is remote from the adjusting screw 9, a further lug 15 is formed diagonally with respect to the lug 13, the clip spring 10 anchored on the housing 1 acting on that side of said further lug which is remote from the housing 1 at a distance from the sliding areas 11, said clip spring thereby pressing the carrier 8 onto the sliding areas 11 in a pretensioned manner. The inner side areas of the sliding blocks 7 that project at the housing 1 and face the carrier 8 constitute guide areas for the carrier 8 which prevent the latter from tilting.

[0015] Figures 3 and 4 illustrate the arrangement and embodiment of the clip spring 10. The latter has an elongated spring limb 101 and a bearing limb 102 which is formed transversely with respect to the latter and with which said clip spring presses the carrier 8 (not illustrated here) onto the housing 1. The bearing limb 102 is formed on a hook-shaped angular portion 16 formed on the spring limb 101. It can be discerned in Figure 3 in particular that the spring limb 101 is guided in a groove-like depression 17 formed on the housing 1, and that the hook-shaped angular portion 16 is angled relative to the spring limb 101 and projects from the depression 17 at an acute angle with respect to the housing 1 in order in this way to engage over the lug 15 with the bearing limb

102.

[0016] The spring limb 101 is bent over in barbed fashion in a curvature part 103 at its support-side end in the depression 17 in the direction towards the side remote from the angled hook-shaped angular portion 16 and is clamped with the bent-over end piece 18 in an abutment formed on the housing 1, which is shown in the section V - V illustrated in Figure 5. The illustration shows using broken lines the arrangement of the clip spring 10 in the depression 17 out of engagement with the lug 15 of the carrier 8 in accordance with Figure 3, the clip spring 10 lying in the depression 17 already in a pretensioned manner in the direction towards the housing 1 on account of its clamping anchoring in the housing 1. The illustration shows using solid lines the clip spring 10 which is bent out elastically from the depression 17 and, in such a position, is in engagement with the lug 15 (not illustrated) and has an increased pretensioning in particular as a result of the elastic bending of the spring limb 101.

[0017] The clamping anchoring itself is illustrated in an enlarged manner in Figure 6. The abutment which is formed in the housing 1 and serves for anchoring is an anchoring channel 19 which is inclined relative to the housing surface in the direction of the bent-over end piece 18, but whose inclination is less than that of the end piece 18 with respect to the spring limb 101. The anchoring channel 19 has a bearing edge 20 for the inner side of the end piece 18, which is produced by a gradation in the anchoring channel 19, and offers a supporting area 21 for the region of the arcuate curvature part 103 of the clip spring 10. As a result of the arrangement of the bent-over end in the anchoring channel 19, on account of the difference in inclination between the latter and the bent-over end piece 18 and the bearing of the spring limb 101 in the depression 17, the curvature part 103 is slightly bent up elastically as a result of the generation of a stress in the clip spring 10 which, in the spring limb 10, brings about the abovementioned pretensioning in the spring limb 10. The pretensioning forces F are indicated.

[0018] If the position or, in particular, the orientation of the focusing lens 6 has to be corrected, the carrier 8 with the scanning head 5 can be rotated about a virtual axis in a manner sliding on the sliding areas 11, whereby its inclination relative to the housing 1 changes. This correction is effected by an actuation of the adjusting screw 9, the clip spring 10 tensioning the carrier 8 onto the sliding areas 11.

Claims

1. Scanning device for optical discs, having an optical housing (1) with integrally formed sliding areas (11) for receiving a scanning unit with a carrier (8) with a scanning head (5) arranged thereon, which scanning unit is provided with counter-sliding areas (12) and is adjustable about a virtual axis, having at least one adjusting screw (9) which is supported on the hous-

ing (1) and acts on the carrier (8), and having at least one spring means with an elongated spring limb (101) and a bearing limb (102) formed transversely with respect to the latter, which spring means acts at one of its ends with the bearing limb (102) on the carrier (8) on that side of the sliding areas (11) which is remote from the adjusting apparatus (9) and presses it against the sliding areas (11) of the housing (1), and which spring means is supported at its other end at a distance from the impingement location on the housing (1) **characterized in that** the spring means is a clip spring (10), **in that** the bearing limb (102) is formed on a hook-shaped angular portion (16) of the spring limb (101), **in that** the spring limb (101) is guided in a groove-like depression (17) formed on the housing (1) and **in that** the angular portion (16) is angled relative to the spring limb (101) and projects from the depression (17) at an acute angle with respect to the housing (1).

2. Scanning device according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the spring limb (101) is bent over in barbed fashion in a curvature part (103) at its support-side end towards the side remote from the angled angular portion (16) and is clamped with a bent-over end piece (18) in an abutment formed on the housing (1).

3. Scanning device according to Claim 2, **characterized in that** the abutment is an anchoring channel (19) which is inclined to the surface of the housing (1) and whose inclination is less than that of the end piece (18) with respect to the spring limb (101).

4. Scanning device according to Claim 3, **characterized in that** the anchoring channel (19) has a supporting area (21) for the curvature part (103) of the clip spring (10) and a bearing edge (20) for the inner side of the bent-over end piece (18).

5. Scanning device according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the clip spring (10) is formed from spring steel wire.

6. Scanning device according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the sliding areas (11) arranged on the housing (1) are formed on sliding blocks (7) which form lateral guide areas for the carrier (8) on their side facing said carrier.

7. Scanning device according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the sliding areas (11) are formed concavely relative to the carrier (8).

8. Scanning device according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the counter-sliding areas (12) formed on the carrier (8) correspond in their form to the sliding areas (11) of the housing (1) and bear on them

in a positively locking manner.

9. Appliance for reading from and/or writing to optical storage media, **characterized in that** it has a scanning device according to one or more of the preceding claims. 5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

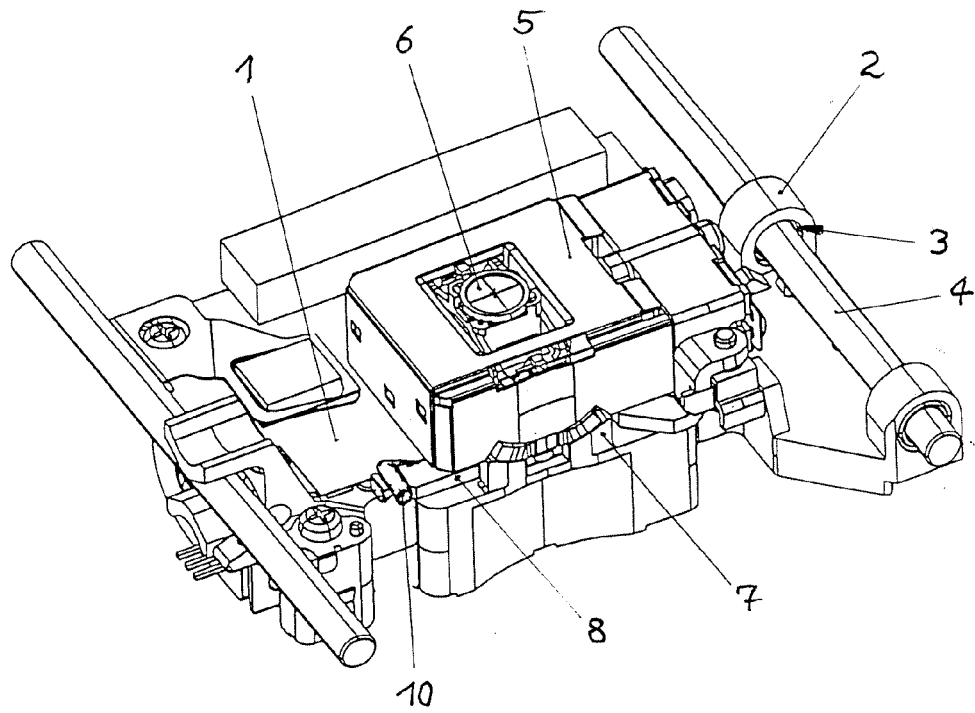


FIG. 1

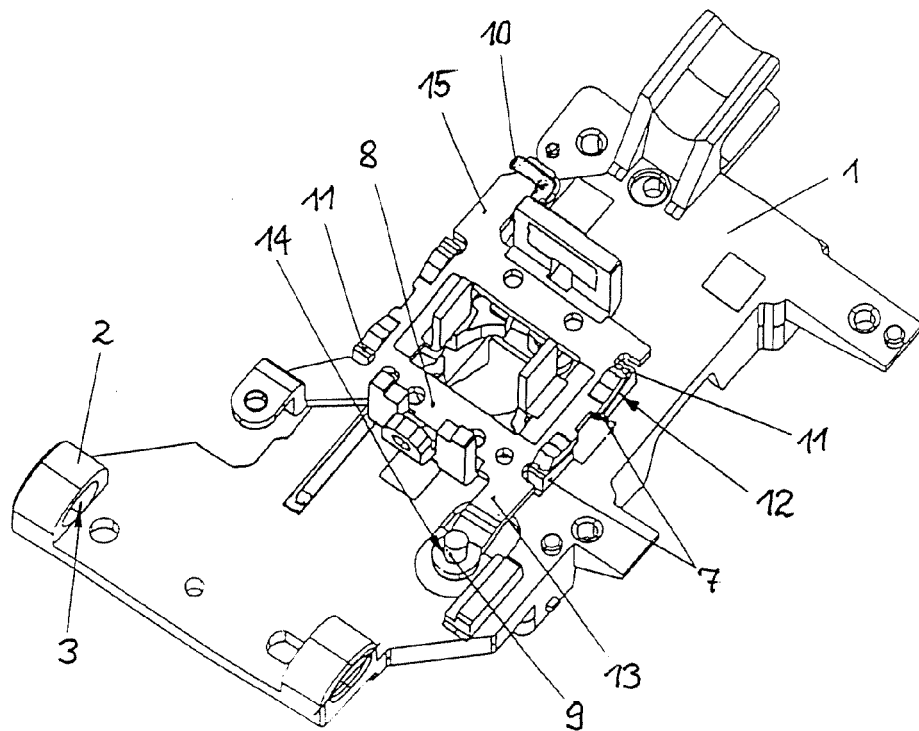


FIG. 2

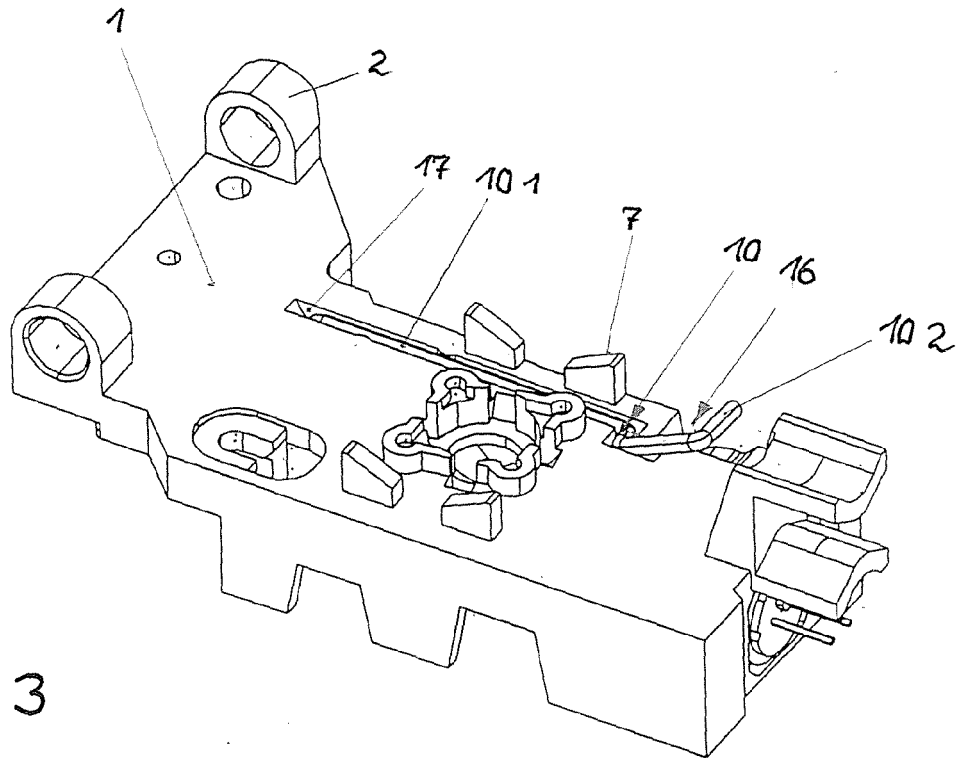


FIG. 3

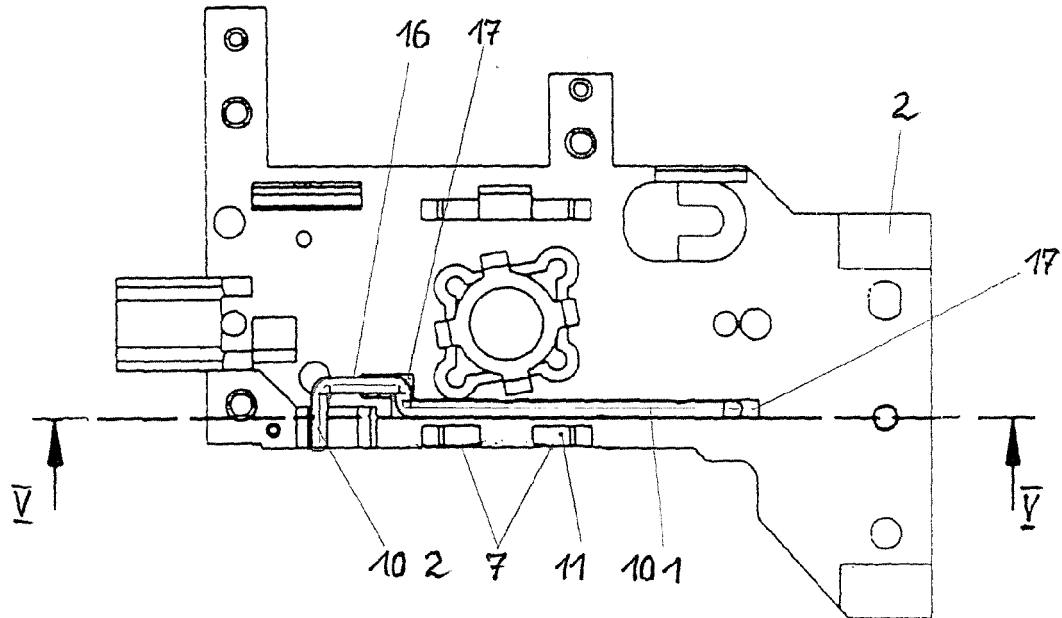


FIG. 4

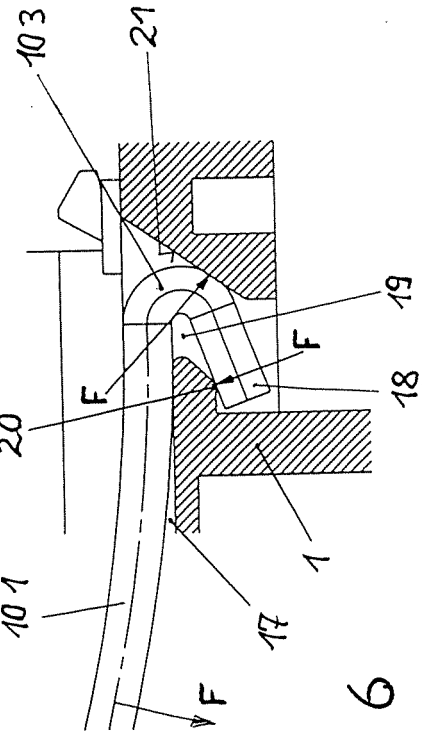
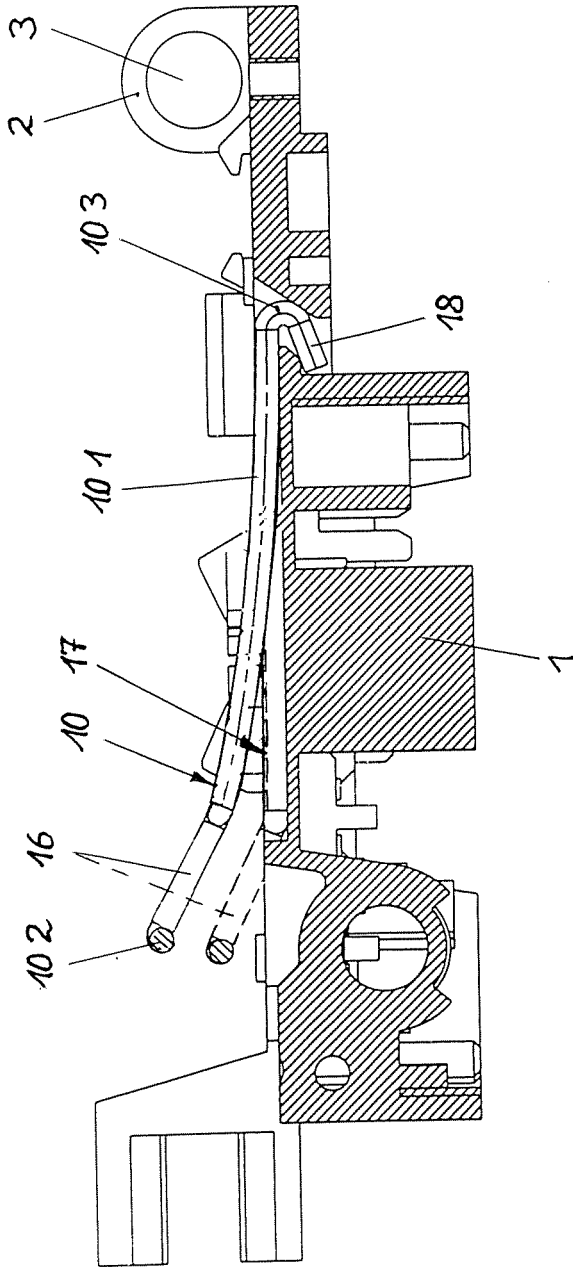


FIG. 5
Schnitt V-V

FIG. 6



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
D,A	EP 0 872 832 A (MITSUMI ELECTRIC COMPANY LTD) 21 October 1998 (1998-10-21) * the whole document *	1-9	INV. G11B7/08
D,A	US 2001/050899 A1 (ITO TATSUYA ET AL) 13 December 2001 (2001-12-13) * the whole document *	1-9	
A	EP 1 471 511 A (VICTOR COMPANY OF JAPAN LIMITED) 27 October 2004 (2004-10-27) * the whole document *	1-9	
A	US 5 696 753 A (OKUSHITA ET AL) 9 December 1997 (1997-12-09) * the whole document *	1-9	
A	US 2004/205793 A1 (LU YI-WEI ET AL) 14 October 2004 (2004-10-14) * the whole document *	1-9	
A	US 5 663 843 A (EZAWA ET AL) 2 September 1997 (1997-09-02) * the whole document *	1-9	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) G11B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 14 September 2006	Examiner SKAROPOULOS, N
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 06 30 0543

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

14-09-2006

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0872832	A	21-10-1998	DE 69801021 D1	09-08-2001
			DE 69801021 T2	21-03-2002
			JP 10293932 A	04-11-1998
			US 2001048656 A1	06-12-2001

US 2001050899	A1	13-12-2001	DE 10128569 A1	28-02-2002
			JP 3480426 B2	22-12-2003
			JP 2001357538 A	26-12-2001

EP 1471511	A	27-10-2004	JP 2004326938 A	18-11-2004
			US 2004213110 A1	28-10-2004

US 5696753	A	09-12-1997	NONE	

US 2004205793	A1	14-10-2004	NONE	

US 5663843	A	02-09-1997	JP 8273177 A	18-10-1996

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- EP 0649130 A [0003]
- EP 0872832 A [0003]
- US 20010050899 A [0003] [0004]